NPT/CONF.2015/42

2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Distr.: General
4 May 2015
English
Original: French

New York, 27 April-22 May 2015

Implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Report submitted by Algeria*

1. During the eighth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in 2010, the States parties undertook, in the terms of action 20 of the action plan within the framework of the strengthened review process for the Treaty, to submit regular reports on the implementation of the action plan adopted by the 2010 Review Conference as well as of article VI of the NPT, paragraph 4 (c), of the 1995 decision entitled "Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament", and the practical steps agreed to in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference. The goal of submitting reports is to provide the transparency needed for verification.

2. The present report addresses implementation by Algeria of the provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and of the action plan adopted by the 2010 Review Conference, as well as the practical steps adopted by the 2000 Conference.

Article I

3. In the terms of article I of the Treaty, nuclear-weapon States are legally bound by the undertaking not to transfer nuclear weapons, directly or indirectly, to any recipient whatsoever. They have also undertaken not in any way to assist, encourage or induce any non-nuclear-weapon State to acquire such weapons. Fully respecting those undertakings is a primary consideration in the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

4. Algeria urges nuclear-weapon States, under the Treaty, to ensure comprehensive implementation of that article, in particular by avoiding nuclear cooperation with States that are not party to the Treaty. Cooperation with States that are not parties to the Treaty would encourage those States not to accede to it. Nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty have a special responsibility in the implementation of that article in order to achieve universality of the Treaty.

* This document has not been formally edited.

15-07029 (E) 180515 260515

Please recycle

Article II

5. Since its accession to the Treaty, on 12 January 1995, Algeria, which is a non-nuclear-weapon State party to the Treaty, has continued to fully observe and implement article II. In the same spirit, Algeria is a State party to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

6. Algeria remains convinced that disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction are vital to preserve and consolidate international peace and security and for socio-economic development.

Article III

7. In accordance with its obligations and commitments under article III of the Treaty, in 1996 Algeria concluded a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Under the terms of that agreement, Algeria's two research reactors are regularly inspected by the Agency. Verification by IAEA has always confirmed Algeria's respect for its obligations under the Treaty.

Article IV

8. Algeria attaches the greatest importance to the preservation of the inalienable right, under article IV of the Treaty, of States parties to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, without discrimination. Algeria cannot accede to any measure or action of any kind which might restrict that right. All States parties to the Treaty have the right to benefit from all peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology provided that they respect the obligations under articles I, II and III.

Article V

9. Algeria has ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, since it is a party to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) which bans nuclear tests.

Algeria plays an active part in efforts and initiatives aimed at promoting the entry into force of the Treaty. Thus it voted in favour of resolution 69/81, adopted by the General Assembly in December 2014. It actively participates in meetings of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty Organization and its bodies in order to convey its commitment to the entry into force of the treaty and to contribute to the consolidation of progress made in establishing the verification regime. In addition, Algeria continues to take part in meetings of the Conference to promote the entry into force of the Treaty, often referred to as the Article XIV conference, as well as in the ministerial meetings of the Friends of the CTBT which it sponsors.

Algeria also participated at the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT, held in September 2014 in New York.

Algeria urges all States that have yet to do so, especially those listed in annex 2 to the Treaty which have a special responsibility concerning its entry into force, to ratify it without delay.

10. Algeria is convinced that the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which is one of the actions in the 2010 action plan, one of the practical steps adopted at the 2000 Conference and one of the measures identified by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, would bring about the cessation of the qualitative improvement and development of new nuclear-weapon systems and thereby prevent their vertical proliferation.

Article VI

11. Algeria deplores the scant progress made in implementing article VI of the NPT, the commitments undertaken in the framework of the 2010 action plan and the practical steps of 2000 with respect to nuclear disarmament.

12. The existence of thousands of nuclear weapons stockpiled or deployed by nuclear-weapon States and the persistence of deterrence theories that assert the usefulness of such weapons to safeguard the security of those States and preserve stability give grounds for concern and run counter to the spirit of the CTBT and to commitments undertaken to get rid of nuclear weapons. This irrefutable fact could be construed as a factor eroding the credibility of the entire nuclear non-proliferation regime and it threatens to impair the authority of the Treaty.

13. Algeria continues to call for negotiations in good faith to implement fully article VI of the Treaty, particularly unequivocal commitment. In this context, it considers that it is not enough just to reaffirm the validity of the commitments undertaken at the 1995, 2000, and 2010 Review Conferences. It would therefore be useful for the 2015 Review Conference to agree on new specific, remediable and measurable steps in line with established time frames for disposing of nuclear weapons.

14. Algeria has supported all pertinent General Assembly resolutions calling for nuclear disarmament. Thus, it actively participated in the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament. It subscribed to resolution 68/32 of 10 December 2013 on the follow up to that meeting which called for the commencement of negotiations on a nuclear disarmament agreement in the Conference on Disarmament, decided to convene a United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament, and declared 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. Algeria also played an active part in, and contributed to the work of, the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations (document A/514 of 9 October 2013),

15. In addition, Algeria actively participated in three international conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons that took place in Oslo in 2013, in Nayarit in Mexico and in Vienna in 2014. Algeria considers that this initiative provides a real opportunity to revitalize nuclear disarmament and go beyond the current status quo by encouraging an approach aimed at filling in legal and political and establishing an instrument banning these weapons.

16. In the Conference on Disarmament, Algeria continues to support all efforts to promote the emergence of a consensus surrounding a comprehensive and balanced work programme that would enable the Conference to resume negotiations on nuclear disarmament.

Article VII

17. Algeria believes that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, based on voluntary agreements, effectively enhances regional peace and security and contributes towards strengthening the non-proliferation regime and nuclear disarmament.

18. Algeria, which is a party to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba), welcomes the entry into force, in July 2009, of that Treaty, which makes an important contribution to global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. It continues to encourage and promote close cooperation between that Treaty and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Algeria likewise continues to advocate the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East as a confidence- and peace-building measure.

19. The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East is of particular importance to regional and international stability. Notwithstanding the fact that all States in the region have acceded to the Treaty on non-proliferation, the Middle East has yet to achieve that status because of Israel's refusal to accede to the Treaty.

It was not possible to implement the mandate of the 2010 Review Conference to convene a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, despite the constructive position adopted by countries in the region, except Israel, during consultations conducted by the Facilitator, Jaakko Laajava. Thus, Israel remains the sole obstacle to that conference being held and to the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East.

Algeria welcomes Mr. Laajava's efforts to ensure that a conference is held in Helsinki for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and reiterates its commitment to such a conference as the start of a process that should lead to the establishment of that zone, as called for in the resolution stemming from the 1995 NPT Review Conference under aegis of the United Nations.

20. Algeria calls on the international community and, in particular, nuclear-weapon States, to assume their responsibility to convene, as soon as possible, the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, pursuant to the resolution adopted by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference.

Article VIII

21. Algeria believes that the indefinite extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1995 did not amount to recognition of an "indefinite" status for nuclear-weapon States. Algeria once again takes the opportunity, on the occasion of the ninth Review Conference, to underscore the responsibility of nuclear-weapon States in the area of nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear arsenals.

Article IX

22. Algeria believes that universality is necessary for the Treaty's credibility and effectiveness as the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime. In that regard, Algeria urges States that are not parties to the NPT to accede to the Treaty and submit their nuclear installations to the IAEA safeguards regime.

23. Algeria highlights the importance of making the necessary efforts to achieve universality of the Treaty and to avoid taking steps that would undermine that objective.

Article X

24. Algeria is firmly committed to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as an essential element for international peace and stability. However, withdrawal from the instrument, as provided for in article X, is a sovereign right that must be exercised in accordance with the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.

25. Algeria emphasizes that the indefinite extension of the Treaty does not amount to indefinite recognition of the status as nuclear Powers of nuclear-weapon States. It must be recalled that the decision to extend the Treaty indefinitely was taken in an overall context that included a decision on strengthening the Treaty review process, a decision on the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, a decision on the indefinite extension of the Treaty and a resolution on the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. Those decisions as a whole, the practical steps agreed on at the 2000 Conference, and the 2010 action plan to apply article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and paragraphs 3 and 4 (c) of the 1995 decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, are closely linked and remain valid.